



Text by Rona Coster
Photography by Rona Coster and Tina Causey-Escobedo

THE RAINBOW OF FACES IN CARNIVAL



Those new to the Carnival scene may be wondering why the masses of people on the island get dressed up and dance in the street. What possesses them to lustily decorate themselves, parading in groups, drinking and carrying on this time of year?

Anthropologists report that since the beginning of time, men and women have indulged in beautifying themselves—painting eyes, lips, and faces; adding feathers and beads, headdresses, and bijoux to their attire to help establish their identity within society and define who they are. Indians, Eskimos, Hottentots, and Tutsis all share in the passion to self-decorate, followed by dance.

Carnival is a derivative of that early urge. While fifty weeks out of the year most islanders lead a

docile and productive life, they cram much of their dancing and decorating into just two weeks. In Aruba, people of all social strata and educational backgrounds join together to celebrate. It's the big democracy; doctors, cooks, politicians, and schoolteachers are all equal in Carnival.

Having assumed an outrageous, hedonistic persona, they let out steam, only to return to their ordinary lives on Tuesday morning, recovered from the hangover of Carnival Monday.

The *Island Temptations* crew took to the streets of last year's Grand Parade, capturing a rainbow of colorful people reveling in all that is Carnival. We followed up nearly one year later to catch a glimpse of their real lives.



Humphrey Odor

Island Inventory Controller for Colombian Emeralds

He is well known for his artistic and meticulous costume designs. In addition to pulling all-nighters piecing together his group's costumes during the weeks before Carnival, diet and exercise are also a part of his pre-Carnival preparations.



Otmar Oduber

Member of Aruba's Parliament

He is the founder of 'Touch of Brazil,' one of Carnival's popular groups on the parade route. The 2003 theme for his group was "Fiesta Gitano," where all members were dressed in gold; Otmar bleached his hair in honor of the occasion!



Pat Donovan

Director of Sales and Marketing for Wyndham

A faithful member of the Los Laga Bai group, Pat says he was the first to sign up and pay for his costume in full this year! The group's 2003 theme was Fiesta Romana. Pat, an expat from Minnesota, is looking forward to being a part of the historical golden Carnival this year.

Lilly Poelsbroek

Senior Sales Manager at the Radisson

She loves to dance and has enjoyed being a member of the rowdy Los Laga Bai Carnival group for the past fourteen years. She also manages to decorate her costume herself instead of commissioning one of the many local costume designers.



Cristina Galindo

Guest Services Manager at the Wyndham

Parading in Carnival for ten years, Cristina chooses her Carnival group each year based on the band (she loves OREO), the costumes, and which group is the hottest and most fun at the moment. Last year she went with Graphics Aruba, but is opting for the Johnny Walker group this year. She says the costumes, designed by Magaly Maduro, and that the group won "Most Animated" last year swayed her to join in on the excitement.



Enid Croes Marugg

Managing Director of Antico Aruba Group

She was Aruba's Carnival Queen in 1963, winning a car at the time. She always feels the need to "give back" and participate on a grand scale. Her 2003 road piece, Fiesta Fogata, celebrated fire and music. She loves to dance, and Carnival allows this busy businesswoman—a grandmother of two—to shake and move all day! Her dresses and hats provide protection from the sun, but also present an elegant version of Carnival.





www.hugoboss.com

Roland & Avilia Ridderstraat

Round Cook at Radisson and Front Desk Manager

Roland has enjoyed fifteen years in Carnival. He plans ahead by working additional hours in order to take time off for the Grand Parade on Sunday. Avilia has been in Carnival for the past seventeen years, with the last six in Los Laga Bai. Her first parade was with the Connie Francis Fan Club in Santa Cruz.



Beverly Perez

Bartender at the Hyatt Regency Aruba

Elected Employee of the Year at the Hyatt in 2002, she can let it all out and be on the "fun" side of the bar at Carnival.



Suzi Gnecco *Director of Retail and Marketing for Atlantis Adventures*

Deemed a Carnival fanatic by her friends, she reshuffles her priorities during the season, and spends weeks training at the gym for the big parades. Suzi always shows up with a spectacular costume presentation, and will be parading with Graphics Aruba for the second year in a row.





Barbara Bregita

Director of Watersports for De Palm Tours

She books her babysitter in advance so that she can hit the streets for the big parades. She is in charge of a complex aquatic operation year-round and looks forward to unwinding during Carnival.



Cecilito Lopez

Decky on the Diamond Channel

He has a history of royalty in Carnival as the Youth Pancho in '86, Prins Carnival in '88, and Pancho Carnival in '91. His daughters, Chanella and Charella, are Carnival singers—the first in Tumba, the second in Road March. Mom Marisela trains them both.



Anamaria Croes

Party and Event Planner

She claims this is the only party she attends in which she does not have to oversee. It's the grandest party of the year—and she should know it!



DUNKIN' DONUTS®

more than just donuts...

- Breakfast Sandwiches
- Croissants
- Bagels
- Muffins
- Coffee Excellence

Playa Linda, La Cabana, Alhambra Casino, Downtown, Seaport Marketplace, Tanki Leendert, Certified Mega Mall, Savaneta

A WINNING COMBINATION

31 Baskin Robbins®

Beat the heat at the island's coolest ice cream spot

5 convenient locations:

- Playa Linda
- La Cabana
- Downtown
- Certified Mega Mall
- Savaneta

*coming soon to Alhambra Casino



PILSENER BEER
Balashi
 BREWED IN ARUBA
 Aruba's Beer



Dr. Kock *Dermatologist*

Busy orchestrating a major dermatological congress in Aruba, he quickly went to work on his elaborate costume as soon as his fellow medical professionals departed.



Ligenne Trimon

Sales for the Marriott Vacation Club

Like many others participating in Carnival year in and year out, Ligenne and several of her Marriott coworkers participate with different groups each year, depending on the band and costume of each group



Andrew Curiel

Salesman for Gucci

He is an in-demand makeup artist and costume designer. Two years ago he worked all night on his group's costumes and completed everyone's makeup on time. Exhausted from the all-nighter, he fell asleep, missing the great event



ON THE SIDE LINES

**Ruben Garcia**

Radio and Television Personality

Between his radio program, Aki-Aya (here, there), and his television show, Riba-Bao (up and down), he spins the island into a Carnival frenzy.

**Rachel Noordermeer**

General Manager for Texas de Brazil

Texas de Brazil sponsored her group's float in last year's Carnival when she joined Graphics Aruba. The jury is still out as to whether she will be participating this year, but if we know Rachel, she won't be able to resist the fun!



Nel & Glenda Oduher, the first couple, Aruba's Prime Minister loves Carnival.



The Mill Resort's Carnival Fan Club



Chez Mathilde Restaurant Management



Radio and Press Personalities

(Right) Rosie & Nancy doing a little roadside cooking.



Aruba's Minister of Culture, Ranson Lee, and his wife wear matching colorful outfits in honor of the parade.



The Minister of Tourism, Edison Briezen



The Crew from the Tourism Authority



The Kan Family

